**Autumn Term 24 - Sharks**

It was lovely to visit Sharks class this morning for my first Governor visit of the year - it was so nice to see all these new Year 6's starting their final year in school with such confidence and animation. The settling activity was a delight to watch and all the class were welcoming and chatty.

The phonics groups are set with some crossover between the Sharks and Foxes classes, so it was nice to see a few of the Foxes class, also, as the groups mixed for the Phonics lesson I was there to observe. It was lovely to see the social interaction between the members of the different classes as they were all pleased to see each other.

As it was the end of the half-term, I was able to observe lots of revision activities which the class were doing. Mr Saul had shared how the children have been assessed, and their areas of development identified to be targeted through these activities.

Activities throughout the lesson, utilised different methods of input to ensure all learners were accomodated with the class using their own set of wooden letters to form the alphabet and the 'phonics rap' being combined with this to interact the tactile sensation of feeling the letters with the song to support in remembering the both letters sounds and names.

During the lesson there was a focus on manny aspects of phonics such as vowels, the length of sounds and the different sounds associated with the same letter. This developed into construction of words in cvc, ccvc and many other different structures which targeted across the learning goals of all in the class.  Individual support was available on the trickier parts of these activities for each of the pupils.

The lesson progressed to spelling of the words constructed earlier and then applied to these words in a sentence. Within this part of the lesson errors were put into the teacher's answers on the board with the pupils actively seeking to correct these mistakes for the teacher. The children all seeemed to embrace the concept that it was ok to make a mistake as well as the actual targeted spelling and punctuation goals which were highlighted.

The lesson also covered some discussion around meanings of words and alternative meanings of words which supported the explanation skills of pupils.

The lesson ended with a quick round of Countdown which was a fun way to round out a busy lesson - which the children all enjoyed. The staff and pupils of Sharks class are always so welcoming - I look forward to my next visit!

Kind regards

Tamsin Coates